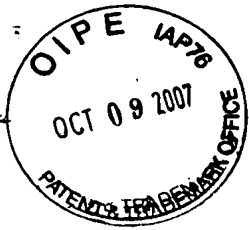


09/687,420.

*cejc*

PATENT  
13DV-13812



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent No.: 7,249,145

Issued: July 24, 2007

Inventor(s): Rock et al.

Assignee: General Electric Company

For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR  
SELECTING CANDIDATES TO INTERVIEW

**Certificate  
of Correction**  
OCT 11 2007

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 5, 2007.

*[Signature]*  
Robert B. Reese, III  
Reg. No. 45,548

Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION OF  
PATENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.322(a)

Sir:

Attached is Form PTO/SB/44 suitable for printing.

Submitted herewith is a copy of the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due and the Notice of Allowability dated April 6, 2007 and a copy of the Amendment filed January 18, 2007. Applicants respectfully submit that the corrections shown below are in accordance with the Amendment filed January 18, 2007. The corrections thereof do not involve such changes in the patent as would constitute new matter or would require re-examination. Applicants respectfully request a Certificate of Correction for the following:

In Claim 4, column 5, line 43, delete "a the user to determine" and insert therefor -- the user to determine --.

OCT 11 2007

In Claim 5, column 5, line 56, delete "a the user to determine" and insert therefor --  
the user to determine --.

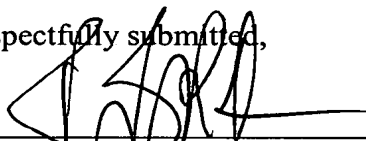
The corrections are not due to any error by Applicants and no fee is due.

The Assignment for this patent is recorded on Reel 011248/Frame 0868.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

OCT 5 2007

Respectfully submitted,



Robert B. Reiser, III

Reg. No. 46,548

ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP

One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600

St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740

(314) 621-5070

OCT 11 2007

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO. : 7,249,145  
APPLICATION NO. : 09/687,420  
ISSUE DATE : July 24, 2007  
INVENTOR(S) : Rock et al.

**PAGE 1 OF 1**

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

In Claim 4, column 5, line 43, delete "a the user to determine" and insert therefor -- the user to determine --.

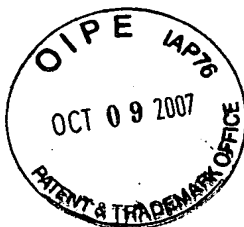
In Claim 5, column 5, line 56, delete "a the user to determine" and insert therefor -- the user to determine --.

**MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER:**

Robert B. Reeser, III  
Armstrong Teasdale LLP  
One Metropolitan Sq., Suite 2600  
St. Louis, MO 63102

**OCT 11 2007**

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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www.uspto.gov

### NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

29399 7590 04/06/2007

JOHN S. BEULICK (12729)  
C/O ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP  
ONE METROPOLITAN SQUARE  
SUITE 2600  
ST. LOUIS, MO 63102-2740

EXAMINER

WONG, LESLIE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2164

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2007

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/687,420	10/13/2000	Peter Joseph Rock	13DV13812	8491

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR SELECTING CANDIDATES TO INTERVIEW

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1400	\$0	\$0	\$1400	07/06/2007

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

#### HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

##### I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

Entered into PAGE/PAGE 1 of 3

PTOL-85 (Rev. 07/06) Approved for use through 04/30/2007.

Date: 4-11-07  
By: *[Signature]*

ENTERED  
Date: 4/10/07  
By: *[Signature]*  
12729-143

OCT 11 2007



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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/687,420	10/13/2000	Peter Joseph Rock	13DV13812	8491

29399 7590 04/06/2007

JOHN S. BEULICK (12729)  
C/O ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP  
ONE METROPOLITAN SQUARE  
SUITE 2600  
ST. LOUIS, MO 63102-2740

EXAMINER

WONG, LESLIE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2164

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2007

**Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)**  
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

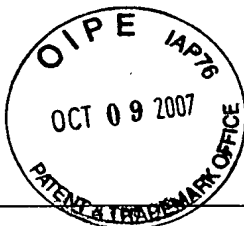
The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 334 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 334 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

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## Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/687,420

Examiner

Leslie Wong

Applicant(s)

ROCK ET AL.

Art Unit

2164

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 01/18/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-4,6-10,12-16 and 19-20 and now renumbered as 1-15.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
Leslie Wong  
Primary Patent Examiner

OCT 11 2007



COPY

THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE IS REQUESTED TO IMPRESS ITS STAMP ON THIS CARD AND PLACE SAME IN THE OUTGOING MAIL TO SHOW THE FOLLOWING PAPERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

Atty Dkt. No.: 13DV13812 (12729-143)

Application of: Peter Joseph Rock, et al.

Filed: October 13, 2000

Serial No.: 10/687,420

For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR SELECTING CANDIDATES  
FOR INTERVIEW

Enclosed:

- Amendment Transmittal which includes Certificate of Express Mail (3 pages, in duplicate)
- Amendment in Response to Office Action dated October 18, 2006 (8 pgs)
- Return Receipt Postcard

RBR/MJAL/gdm

Express Mail No.: EV 918278457 US

Mailed: January 18, 2007

**EV918278457US**

*Page one*  
*1/30/07*  
*Jm*

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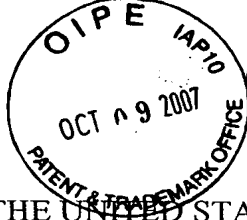
Date 02-01-07

By: emm

SCANNED

By: kmm 1/26

OCT 11 2007



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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: 13DV13812

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Peter Joseph Rock, et al.  
Serial No.: 09/687,420  
Filed: October 13, 2000  
For: METHODS AND  
APPARATUS FOR  
SELECTING CANDIDATES  
FOR INTERVIEW

Art Unit: 2164  
Examiner: Wong, Leslie

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL

- Transmitted herewith is:
  - Amendment Transmittal which includes Certificate of Express Mailing (3 pages, *in duplicate*)
  - Amendment in response to Office Action dated October 18, 2006 (8 pages)
  - Return Receipt Postcard

STATUS

- Applicant  
☐ claims small entity status.  
☒ is other than a small entity.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL TO  
THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Express Mail No.: EV 918278457 US  
Date: January 18, 2007

I hereby certify that the documents listed above are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated above in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Robert B. Reeser, III, Reg. No. 45,548

OCT 11 2007



## EXTENSION OF TERM

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3. The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.136 apply.

(complete (a) or (b), as applicable)

- (a) \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136  
(Fees: 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)-(d) for the total number of months checked below:)

Extension for response within:	Other than small entity Fee	Small entity Fee (if applicable)
_____ first month	\$ 120.00	\$ 60.00
_____ second month	\$ 450.00	\$ 225.00
_____ third month	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 510.00
_____ fourth month	\$1,590.00	\$ 795.00
_____ fifth month	\$2,160.00	\$1,080.00

Fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If an additional extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefor.

*(Check and complete the next item, if applicable)*

\_\_\_\_\_ An extension of \_\_\_\_\_ months has already been secured. The fee paid therefor \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is deducted from the total fee due for the total months of extension now requested.

Extension fee due with this request \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OR

- (b)   X   Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition for extension of time.

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# COPY

## FEE FOR CLAIMS

4. The fee for claims (37 C.F.R. 1.16(b)-(d)) has been calculated as shown below:

	(Col. 1)		(Col. 2)	(Col. 3)	SMALL ENTITY		OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	ADDITIONAL RATE FEE	OR	ADDITIONAL RATE FEE
TOTAL INDEP.		MINUS		=	x \$25.00 = \$		x \$50.00 = \$
		MINUS		=	x \$100.00 = \$		x \$200.00 = \$
—	FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIM				+ \$180.00 = \$		+ \$360.00 = \$
					TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE \$	OR	TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE \$

- (a) ☒ No additional fee for Claims is required

OR

- (b) ☐ Total additional fee for claims required \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## FEE PAYMENT

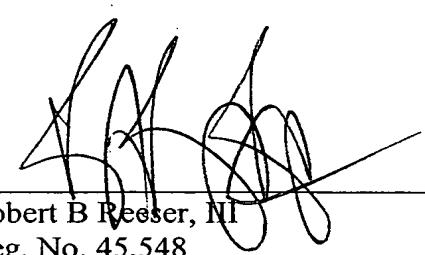
5. Attached is a check in the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Charge Deposit Account No. 01-2384 the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
A duplicate of this transmittal is attached.

## FEE DEFICIENCY

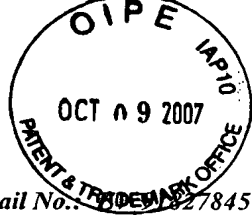
6. ☒ If any additional extension and/or fee is required, charge Deposit Account No. 01-2384.

AND/OR

- ☒ If any additional fee for claims is required, charge Deposit Account No. 01-2384.
7. ☐ Other:

  
Robert B Reeser, III  
Reg. No. 45,548  
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP  
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600  
St. Louis, MO 63102  
314-621-5070

OCT 11 2007



Express Mail No. 278457 US



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PATENT  
13DV13812

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Peter Joseph Rock :  
Serial No.: 09/687,420 : Art Unit: 2164  
Filed: October 13, 2000 : Examiner: Wong, Leslie  
For: METHODS AND APPARATUS :  
FOR SELECTING :  
CANDIDATES FOR :  
INTERVIEW :

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In response to the Office Action dated October 18, 2006, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

OCT 11 2007

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for determining candidates to interview, said method comprising the steps of:

providing pre-determined desired qualities for a candidate, the desired qualities include at least two of analytical ability, self-confidence, initiative, change orientation, and interpersonal skills;

prompting a user to determine and input into a computer whether the candidate possesses at least one of a plurality of independent characteristics, a predetermined combination of characteristics being indicative of a degree to which the candidate possesses the desired qualities;

prompting the user to ~~input a~~ input the candidate's educational background and personal background;

generating a database in a computer readable medium including at least one characteristic for each candidate wherein the at least one characteristic is correlative to the desired qualities;

normalizing the characteristics, normalizing includes comparing a total number of characteristics, possessed by the candidate, of a combination of characteristics that determine each desired quality, to a total number of possibly possessed characteristics for the desired quality, and assigning a value to each desired quality based on the comparison;

displaying results for each candidate based on the desired quality values;

selecting at least one candidate to interview based on the desired quality values; and

displaying, in at least one of a tabular form and a graphical form, the results, the educational background, and the personal background for each of the at least one candidate selected, to enable the user to compare the selected candidates.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the step of normalizing the characteristics further comprises the steps of:

obtaining pre-determined desired qualities associated with each characteristic; and

normalizing the characteristics of each candidate with the pre-determined desired qualities associated with each characteristic.

4. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said step of normalizing the characteristics further comprises the steps of:

summing the normalized characteristics of each candidate; and

dividing the sum total of the normalized characteristics by a pre-determined value representing a total amount possible.

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) A selection system for determining candidates to interview, said system comprising:

a database stored in a memory comprising at least one independent characteristic for each candidate, and pre-determined dependent desired qualities for a candidate wherein the desired qualities include at least two of analytical ability, self-confidence, initiative, change orientation, and interpersonal skills and wherein the at least one characteristic is correlative to the desired qualities, a predetermined combination of characteristics being indicative of a degree to which the candidate possesses the desired qualities, the memory further comprising educational background and personal background for each candidate;

a processor programmed to:

prompt a user to determine whether the candidate possesses the at least one independent characteristic;

normalize the characteristics by comparing a total number of characteristics, possessed by the candidate, of a combination of characteristics that determine each desired quality, to a total number of possibly possessed characteristics for the dependent desired quality, and assigning a value to each of the desired qualities;

display results for each candidate based on the desired quality values; and

display, in at least one of a tabular form and a graphical form, the results, the educational background, and the personal background for each of a candidate selected to be interviewed, to enable the selected candidates to be compared by the user.

7. (previously presented) A selection system in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said pre-determined desired qualities comprise analytical ability, self-confidence, initiative, change orientation, and interpersonal skills.

8. (original) A selection system in accordance with Claim 6 wherein to normalize the characteristics, said processor programmed to:

obtain pre-determined desired qualities associated with each characteristic; and

normalize characteristics of each candidate to desired known qualities associated with each characteristic.

9. (original) A selection system in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said processor programmed to:

rank each candidate based on normalized characteristics; and

sum the normalized characteristics of each candidate.

10. (original) A selection system in accordance with Claim 9 wherein to rank each candidate based on normalized characteristics, said processor further programmed to divide the sum total of all normalized characteristics by an amount representing a pre-determined possible total.

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) Apparatus for screening candidates to interview, said apparatus comprising:

a processor comprising a memory and programmed to:

generate a database in the memory comprising at least one characteristic for each candidate, and pre-determined desired qualities for a candidate wherein the desired qualities include at least two of analytical ability, self-confidence, initiative, change orientation, and interpersonal skills, and wherein the at least one characteristic is correlative to the desired qualities, a predetermined combination of characteristics being indicative of a degree to which the candidate possesses the desired qualities, the memory further comprising educational background and personal background for each candidate;

prompt a user to determine whether the candidate possesses the at least one independent characteristic;

normalize the characteristics desired qualities by comparing a total number of characteristics, possessed by the candidate, of a combination of characteristics that determine each desired quality, to a total number of possibly possessed characteristics for the dependent desired quality, and assigning a value to each of the desired qualities;

display results for each candidate based on the desired quality values; and

display, in at least one of a tabular form and a graphical form, the results, the educational background, and the personal background for each of a candidate selected to be interviewed, to enable the selected candidates to be compared.

13. (previously presented) Apparatus in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said pre-determined desired qualities comprise analytical ability, self-confidence, initiative, change orientation, and interpersonal skills.

14. (original) Apparatus in accordance with Claim 12 wherein to normalize the characteristics, said processor further programmed with pre-determined desired qualities associated with each characteristic.

15. (original) Apparatus in accordance with Claim 12 wherein to normalize the characteristics, said processor further programmed to normalize candidate characteristics with known qualities associated with each characteristic.

16. (previously presented) Apparatus in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said processor is further programmed to rank each candidate by:

summing the normalized characteristics of each candidate; and

dividing the sum total of the normalized characteristics by an amount representing a pre-determined possible total.

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein prompting a ~~user~~ the user to determine and input into a computer whether the candidate possesses at least one of a plurality of independent characteristics comprises prompting the user to determine and input into the computer whether the candidate possesses at least one of a grade point average greater than 3.5 out of 4.0, multiple degrees, multiple majors, multiple minors, an honor society membership, a society officer position, a team captain position, military service, significant travel exposure, education outside a home country of the candidate, community service participation, tutor experience, technical publication, awards, exceptional work experience, and extracurricular activities.

20. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein prompting a ~~user~~ the user to determine and input into a computer whether the candidate possesses at least one of a plurality of independent characteristics comprises prompting the user to make a



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PATENT  
13DV13812

subjective assessment of whether the candidate possesses at least one of a plurality of independent characteristics.

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PATENT  
13DV13812

**Remarks**

The Office Action mailed October 18, 2006, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

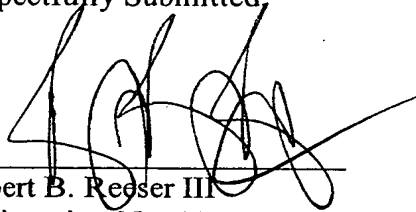
Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-10, 12-16, 19, and 20 are now pending in this application. Claims 6-10 and 12-16 are allowed. Claims 1, 3, 4, 19 and 20 stand rejected. Claims 2, 5, 11, 17, and 18 have been canceled.

The objection to Claims 2, 5, 11, 17, and 18 is respectfully traversed. Claims 2, 5, 11, 17, and 18 have been canceled. Accordingly, the objection is moot.

The rejection of Claims 1-4, 19, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 19, and 20 to address the issues raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 112 rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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